

REMARKS

This writing is submitted in response to the Decision on Appeal rendered by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in the above-identified application, mailed August 12, 2004, the Petition to Revive the Unintentionally Abandoned Application under 37 CFR 1.137(b) and a Request For Continued Examination filed concurrently herewith, applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

Claims 1 and 4-8 remain pending herein, where independent claims 1 and 8 are amended hereby in order to distinguish the claimed inventions from US Patent No. 5,974,113 to Bruijns et al. That is, Bruijns addresses the drawback of conventional image pick-up apparatus that, even when the optical image has uniform brightness, image lines from different sensors may have different brightness values in the composite image because differences occur between signal levels of sub-image signals.

Bruijns' correction unit corrects brightness values of the composite image by selecting bright and dark parts from the sub-images to realize a correction term for the dark parts. Bruijns essentially calibrates the two image sensors, to each other. But unlike applicants' inventions, the mere correction for uniformity between two sub-images because they derive from different sensors does not take into account the effect, over time since exposure, of trapped charge from


previous exposures. Both sensors would suffer from the effects of the release of trapped charge—it would not be detectable by the Bruijns' correction method.

Applicants' inventions make such useful corrections for image error generated by trapped and time-released trapped charge, and could be used in conjunction with the gain correction of Bruijns, or separately as claimed.

Reconsideration of applicants' inventions as claimed, after amendment is hereby respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited by the undersigned to call and discuss the distinctions between the amended claims and Bruijns.

Respectfully submitted,

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